



GOD'S ANSWERS: Session Three

What does this mean? The role of God's truths and our culture's worldviews in shaping our thoughts.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Your Word is truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word even as the evil one seeks to whispers his lies into our ears. Keep us with Your Son who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

God's revealed truth – Augsburg Confession Article Three

Read Aloud:

“Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God (John 1:14), assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So there are two natures – the divine and the human – inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind (John 1:29). He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles’ Creed.”

Q: How is this Truth undercut in our world?

A: If you desire, allow for some discussion about this question if general, then focus on the fact that these truths about Jesus are undercut in many ways in our world. Often when Jesus is portrayed, the teaching that Jesus is God is often deemphasized or dismissed. The focus in this session is on who Jesus is, His nature, rather than on His saving work, which will be covered in the next session. Choose one or more of the examples on the next sheet entitled “Cultural Attempts to undermine this truth” to help show how Jesus is portrayed in our culture. Then return here to finish this session.

Q: How is this truth revealed in the Scriptures. Why does it matter?

A: Read the following Scriptures that speak about Jesus being God. The importance of this teaching is far reaching. Only if He is God, conceived by the Holy Spirit can He be born sinless and therefore be the perfect sacrifice for sins. Only if He is God, can He forgive sins as he did. Only if He is God, can He fulfill all the prophecies that promised that the Messiah would be God himself. If He is not God, Jesus is a liar based on His own words and actions.

- *John 8:58-59: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.' So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple."*
- *Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*
- *John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, Jesus is your eternally begotten Son. He was born perfect and died sacrificially for us. Grant us always to live in Your Kingdom through Your grace. Amen.

Cultural Attempts to undermine this truth:

Example 1:

Play the clip from the movie Da Vinci Code that can be found at <https://youtu.be/KI56LyJTH5M>. Note how this clip suggests that the teaching that Jesus was the Son of God, that He was divine, was created out of political expediency rather than the fact of Jesus' resurrection which causes the apostles and church to confess Jesus' divinity.

Example 2:

Play the clip from Jesus Christ Superstar found that can be at <https://youtu.be/pqoeM18vCaU>. Note how this clip uses a song by Judas to suggest that Jesus did not teach or believe Himself to be God at the beginning of His ministry, but came to believe this because of people's love for Him.

Example 3:

Talk about how many other religions will give Jesus some place in their religion, but that they all deny Him status as God. Islam teaches He is a prophet. Buddhism will say that Jesus's teachings are in many ways similar to the Buddha and therefore perhaps will call Jesus wise. However, to claim that He is God is forbidden by all other religions.